

It has been a pleasure and an honor serving with both of you, and this is one tough New Yorker who's not afraid to say "I'll miss you". Farewell, old friends.

RECOGNIZING THE MISSISSIPPI
MILITARY COMMUNITY FOR ITS
SUPPORT DURING HURRICANE
IVAN

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with Congress the actions of some of Mississippi's often unsung heroes and their recent efforts in the face of a mighty storm.

The damaging effects and extraordinary loss caused by Hurricane Ivan cannot help but make a lasting impression on anyone who sees them. For those of us who love the Gulf Coast, with its deep beauty and usually gentle but sometimes ferocious character, this is especially poignant. We also understand the value of community when facing a disaster like Hurricane Ivan. Although many contributed to the preparation and recovery from Ivan, I would like to take a moment to recognize an extraordinary group of our neighbors that never seek recognition: our Mississippi military community.

On the Mississippi Gulf Coast, during the 2004 hurricane season, the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron once again earned the right to call themselves the "Hurricane Hunters." The 53rd flew nearly every day after July 30th, sometimes into two different storms simultaneously. Because of their courage and professionalism, those of us back home and across the nation were able to track Ivan, properly prepare our communities, and—as the 53rd has allowed us so many times in the past—save lives.

The Naval Air Station Meridian Team of military, civilians and contractors worked selflessly and shoulder to shoulder to provide a safe haven for those caught in Ivan's path. Station aircraft were sorted or otherwise safeguarded. NAS Meridian provided Air Traffic Control and refueling services to over 90 aircraft evacuating Whiting Field in Milton, Florida. They provided food, shelter and support throughout the storm to over 1,000 evacuees and 100 pets. Neighbors rose to the occasion to make sure there was room for everyone. Many families living in base housing opened their homes to friends and comrades from Gulf Coast units. In Ivan's aftermath, evacuees were assured care until it was safe to return to their homes in south Mississippi and coastal Alabama and Florida. Station crews went immediately to work with their neighbors to care for the community. Most impressively, this team of highly dedicated and skilled professionals fully restored the base to resume the business of the nation within hours of the storm's passage.

As Ivan approached, Columbus Air Force Base crews were hard at work providing a safe location for Coast Guard aircraft caught in the path of the hurricane. The Federal Emergency Management Agency also recognized that Columbus had a great deal to offer and quickly established a staging area on base. Evacuees seeking refuge in north Mis-

issippi were also assured shelter. Just like at NAS Meridian, the outstanding staff and base volunteers went immediately to work and quickly restored their base and community moments after the storm passed by.

Our National Guardsmen continue to inspire and impress. With nearly half of Mississippi's Guard troops mobilized in support of Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, our Adjutant General made available the state's remaining forces to support those along Ivan's projected course, as well as in communities devastated by previous storms in Florida. In south Mississippi, troops were arriving long before Ivan made landfall. After the storm, our Guard made a tremendous difference in getting badly required relief to those who needed it most. Regardless of the threat, I take great comfort in knowing our Guardsmen are on the job looking after us here at home and abroad.

We Mississippians have repeatedly witnessed the unique capabilities of our SEABEES across the globe and over the years, but we will always remember their support after Hurricane Camille ravaged our state in 1969. Although we were fortunate to not bear the brunt of Ivan, our Gulfport SEABEES proved they were there for those that did. I was most impressed with their ability to, within 18 hours of Hurricane Ivan's passing, put large numbers of people, equipment and logistics support from the Construction Battalion Center Gulfport on the most critical disaster recovery and service restoration missions at NAS Pensacola. We Mississippians are proud of our SEABEES, deployed in Iraq and elsewhere around the world, and know from first hand experience that they will always be true to their motto "with Compassion for others—we build, we fight—for peace with freedom."

In peace or war, against the terrors of evil men or the ravages of nature, Mississippians seek to secure our homes and neighbors from danger. From Columbus to Keesler and Pascagoula to the Stennis Space Center, Mississippi continues to show that we have the full military package: our citizens serve bravely in our armed forces both domestically and abroad; our bases train and prepare our nation's top pilots and troops; our universities provide cutting edge military research and technology; while our manufacturers produce vehicles, radar and aircraft our forces need for their missions. In my district, I am particularly proud to count as neighbors the Navy's finest advanced jet-training base and two of the National Guard's premiere air wings. Our individual Mississippi National Guardsmen do tremendous work every day to safeguard the defense of our great nation. We Mississippians greatly appreciate that the patriots who so nobly operate our bases are also the neighbors who stand with us in the face of terrorism and disasters like Hurricane Ivan. To them I offer my gratitude, and the thanks of their fellow Mississippians.

HONORING TOM FOGLIETTA

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a colleague and friend who passed away this

week—someone who left a profound mark on his community, his Nation and this institution. No one could deny the dedication and passion that Tom Foglietta brought to life—whether it was for working people, for friends or for our friends in the international community. He was special—a man with a common touch and high ideals.

With Tom, you always knew you were with someone who would fight—who was with you until the end regardless of the odds or the politics of the matter. As I reflect on his time in the Congress, I remember a man who understood what it meant to bring the values of his constituents to Washington.

When his district changed from being predominantly white to overwhelmingly African-American, I remember how Tom made that transition so effortlessly—how he worked to establish himself with his new constituents and make sure they knew that representing them—their hopes, their dreams—was his number one priority. They learned what we all knew—that whether you had just met Tom or knew him for decades, when he looked you in the eye and gave his word, you had his word. You took it home.

And nothing represented that commitment like the way he fought to keep the Philadelphia Navy Yard open. Even as everyone believed it was sure to close, Tom continued to bring back Federal money to the yard—much, as I understand, to the surprise of even the Navy itself. But it was what he did once the Commission finally decided to close the yard that showed Tom Foglietta was not only a man of the people but also a man of real vision.

First, he went down to that yard and announced the closing before a sea of angry workers. I think everyone in this body understands how extraordinary that can be—facing the people head-on, delivering bad news.

Then, while others were still in denial, Tom put all his efforts into doing something even the shipyard workers had not yet embraced. Rather than fighting what he knew was a losing battle to keep the yard open, he went ahead, full-steam, to transform it into an economic resource for the community—a technology and business incubator—and secured a \$50 million appropriation for the yard's conversion.

Today, that yard employs 6,000 Philadelphians—some of whom even use the old docks to work on ships. Nobody believed it was possible. But Tom Foglietta did. Whether it was modernizing the shipyard or involving the Army Corps of Engineers when an African-American neighborhood in Philadelphia had homes that were literally sinking into the ground, he knew that fighting for people was not just a matter of perseverance. That it was also a matter of foresight, creativity and vision.

A fellow Italian-American, Tom and I often discussed how it was our parents' example serving on our respective city councils—his in Philadelphia, mine in New Haven—that inspired us to enter a life of politics and give back to the communities that had given us so much. He knew that preserving our heritage was a matter of values, which is why as a Member of Congress he took on the fight back home to create Christopher Columbus Boulevard in south Philly.

When he became Ambassador to Italy, Tom made and kept a commitment to visit every province in Italy. To Tom, Italy was not some

foreign place—it was his new district. When the First Lady introduced the Save America's Treasures project, Tom worked to raise private funds to preserve Christopher Columbus' childhood home in Genoa. In truth, it would not be the last time his passion for the job would make officials in the State Department crazy.

I will never forget his signature moment—when he knelt down in prayer for the victims in the Cavalese cable-car tragedy, sending a powerful message to the world that America weeps for the sons and daughters of its allies as if they were our very own. In turn, the Italian people loved him as he loved them.

Throughout his entire career, whether it was his work in Italy, to secure the peace in Haiti or to forge democracy in South Korea, Tom Foglietta understood that America's role in the world was rooted in moral leadership—in common values, humility and humanity.

I will miss his moral leadership—we all will. But perhaps above all, I will miss his friendship. I will miss eating pasta with gravy, his cooking in my kitchen and those dinners with the gang—with Tom and NANCY PELOSI, BARBARA BOXER, DICK DURBIN, SAM GEDJENSON, CHUCK SCHUMER, ANNA ESHOO, TOM DOWNEY, GEORGE MILLER, and MARTY RUSSO. We could always rely on Tom to do something to spice the night up—whether it was something he would say or him hiring a ragtag band to play a party that only he could love. He was fun—he was warm. He was our friend.

Grazi, Don Tomaso—your passion for people knew no bounds. For that, you will forever be in our hearts.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LOTTE BRESNITZ

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to mourn the passing of a kind and caring woman from my district. Lotte Bresnitz, a longtime community activist and dedicated nurse recently passed away at the age of eighty-five in Aspen, Colorado. She was a kind and generous soul and it is a privilege to recognize her life and service before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

Lotte was born in Nuremberg, Germany and immigrated to the United States in 1938, where she made her home in Cincinnati. She studied to become a registered nurse, and during her studies met and eventually married Kurt Bresnitz. After Kurt was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army, the couple moved to Denver where Lotte took a job as the head nurse in the emergency room at Rose Memorial Hospital. In 1950, while Lotte and Kurt were on vacation in Aspen, they fell in love with the town and decided to relocate. Lotte worked as the head nurse at the Aspen Hospital and Kurt opened a Jewelry Store. After the birth of their two children, John and Carol, Lotte retired to become a full-time mother and continued to volunteer with organizations like the League of Women Voters, and the Senior Citizens Council.

Mr. Speaker, Lotte Bresnitz was an endearing woman whose five decades of volunteer work throughout the Aspen community made

her one of the most recognizable faces in the area. I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation today to recognize her outstanding record of service. My thoughts and prayers go out to her friends and family at this difficult time of bereavement.

HEMOCARE PROVIDES VALUE FOR AMERICANS' HEALTH CARE DOLLAR—GOOD REASON TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL HEMOCARE AND HOSPICE MONTH

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, homecare presents—a tremendous value for Americans' healthcare dollar. Homecare provides a family-friendly, clinically proven way of receiving quality healthcare for millions of Americans where they prefer to receive care—at home. November, National Homecare and Hospice Month, is an opportunity to recognize the importance of homecare as an essential component of healthcare in the United States.

This important segment of the health care continuum allows patients with medical needs to remain in their homes, including those who are recovering, disabled, chronically or terminally ill who need medical, nursing, social, or therapeutic treatment.

Homecare represents a family value and a value for families. It's about quality healthcare and quality of life for at least 8 million households across the United States.

Recent studies of homecare services support the following conclusions:

Homecare for selected conditions can shorten inpatient hospital stays.

Homecare can reduce the overall costs of care without compromising outcomes.

Homecare can improve clinical outcomes including mortality. This improvement can be striking in degree.

Homecare can improve patient and caregiver satisfaction.

Homecare can improve functional independence and reduce the risk of institutional placement.

For Medicare beneficiaries with selected conditions, formal homecare is the most cost-effective strategy for achieving functional improvement compared to in-patient rehabilitation, nursing-home-based rehabilitation, and discharge to home without formal homecare services.

Homecare is expected to grow in the years ahead because of several large-scale trends:

The American population is rapidly aging. The 85-and-older group is the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. population.

Advances in technology allow virtually every service short of surgery to be delivered at home.

Homecare does not require brick-and-mortar investments since it's provided at home.

So today I join homecare patients and caregivers throughout the United States in celebrating National Homecare and Hospice Month.

NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Adoption Month.

As an adoptive parent of two little girls, I have personally felt the unspeakable joy that comes from welcoming a child into your home and family. The knowledge that you are giving hope and opportunity to a boy or girl who might otherwise have none is inspiring and uplifting.

In fact six in ten Americans have had a personal experience with adoption—meaning they, a family member, or a close friend was adopted, has adopted, or has placed a child for adoption. As we near the holiday season, it warms my heart to know that so many people's lives have been made better by experiencing the joy that adoption brings.

Adoption is an issue that people are willing to talk about, but when it comes to getting personally involved, many back away. According to the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, based in my hometown of Columbus, Ohio, 63 percent of Americans have a "favorable opinion" of adoption, and 78 percent think more should be done to encourage adoption. But acting on those feelings tends to be more difficult. The typical reaction is that "someone else will do it." Unfortunately for the 120,000 children across the country currently in foster care, that is not the case. Though there are millions of suitable parents, many do not engage in the adoptive process for fear they are not up to the task of parenting an adoptive child or because they think adoption is a costly and unmanageable process.

But we still have more work to do. In July, the Department of Health and Human Services launched the first ever national public service campaign to encourage adoption. This new initiative, produced in conjunction with the Ad Council and the Adoption Exchange Association, will highlight older "special needs" children who need permanent homes. "Special needs" means they are children who, for various reasons, have a harder time finding families willing to adopt them. Often special needs include factors such as physical or health problems and ethnic or racial background. Other times, a group of siblings needs to be adopted together. Fifty-three percent of foster children are between the ages of 8–17, and the need to connect these youth with permanent families is significant.

You do not have to be rich, married, highly educated, or a homeowner to adopt a child. Children don't need perfect parents, just individuals who are willing to open their hearts and homes and make a life-long commitment to love and nurture a child.

I am proud to join my colleagues today in honoring National Adoption Month.

HONORING JOHN D. RINGLE AND T. MAXINE RINGLE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker I rise today to honor John D. Ringle and T.